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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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France-SEATO: [Paris will be represented only by an observer at the SEATO Council of Ministers meeting which opens 3 May.]

[France has never been enthusiastic about SEATO, and in recent years has been only a passive member. Nevertheless, the French have availed themselves of the meetings in the past to advance their views and to brake any SEATO activities inconsistent with French aims.]

[The current decision is probably meant to emphasize the French argument that the Western-directed organization does not provide the proper framework for dealing with the Indochinese problem. Paris might also wish to avoid a confrontation such as occurred at the Manila meeting last year when France abstained from the council's declaration on Vietnam.]

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West Germany - Israel: [Bonn hopes for final agreement on establishment of German-Israeli diplomatic relations in a week or ten days, followed by the actual opening of relations within four to six weeks thereafter.]

[Bonn's negotiator and Israeli officials have agreed that the German representation will be established in Tel Aviv and not in Jerusalem. Bonn will compensate the Israelis for contracted weapons not delivered because of Germany's recent cancellation of arms shipments.]

[The German Government now expects that when the announcement on relations is made, eight or nine Arab countries will break relations with Bonn but that none will recognize East Germany.]

[After a break with the UAR, Germany will be represented diplomatically in Cairo by Italy. According to a German Embassy official there, the political section of the embassy may be withdrawn, but the economic and cultural sections will stay. The official hopes that in "three or four months" normal relations can be restored.]

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Kenya: [A showdown between President Kenyatta and Vice President Oginga Odinga appears to have been averted, but the political situation remains tense]

[Nairobi police briefly detained Oginga at his home on 14 April and then released him,]

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[The circumstances of this action are still unclear. The following day Kenyan officials told the US ambassador that the crisis was over]

[Public statements by cabinet ministers denying the widespread rumors of arms smuggling and the discovery of secret arms caches seem to be an attempt by Kenyatta to paper over his differences with Oginga. Having reduced any immediate coup threat by seizing Oginga's arms, Kenyatta can maintain his usual posture of remaining above the factional and tribal disputes within his government]

[The parliamentary coalition against Oginga is unlikely, however, to lose the momentum it has gained in the past two weeks. When parliament reconvenes on 20 April it plans further moves to remove Oginga men from key positions in the House of Representatives, and to transfer effective control of the Soviet-financed Lumumba Institute from Oginga to the Ministry of Education]

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West Africa - Congo - France: Five moderate ex-French West African states are pushing ahead with plans to help the Leopoldville government.

Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Niger, Togo, and Senegal last week end agreed to press now for Congo's admission to the embryonic African and Malagasy Common Organization (OCAM), presently composed of 13 former French territories plus Rwanda. Under this plan, which was first outlined last February, OCAM members would then make available to Leopoldville both administrative and military personnel, the latter drawn from the 10,500 African servicemen recently demobilized from the French Army.

The five countries have launched a major effort to win support for their scheme, which is sure to be resisted by some OCAM states--notably the leftist regime in Brazzaville. Special emissaries are being sent to many African and a few European capitals.

[To help implement the plan, Upper Volta President Yameogo has appealed for a US military assistance program for his country.] *An approach to the US for support is also envisaged to help implement the plan*

Paris, whose position is likely to be decisive in the matter, has previously been cool to the plan. Recently, however, French Foreign Ministry officials have displayed a more favorable attitude. The French apparently believe that Tshombé is becoming more acceptable to Africans. Paris is also increasingly sensitive to concern among moderate African leaders over Arab and Communist intervention in Black African affairs.

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Belgium-Burundi: Belgium is looking for some way to help the chances of the moderates in the elections of 10 May in Burundi. The Belgians evidently take seriously the Mwami's report that the Chinese Communists continue to subsidize extremist elements. Belgium is considering an expansion of economic aid, and has the impression the Mwami might postpone the elections until this takes effect.

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Rumania: The collective leadership which took over on 19 March after the death of Gheorghiu-Dej appears to be working effectively. A central committee communiqué has announced that the regime's four top men--First Secretary Ceausescu, Premier Maurer, State Council President Stoica, and First Vice Premier Apostol--will all deliver major addresses to the party congress which opens on 19 July. The fact that the regime can make this announcement three months in advance augurs well for a period of stability at the top. However, this long lead time offers ample opportunity for jockeying, as the leaders attempt to influence the party appointments to be announced at the congress.

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Panama: Striking sugar workers have been convinced by Communist advisers to remain in Panama City, [redacted] At the request of the strikers, President Robles furnished buses to return them the 130 miles which they marched from their homes last week. However, under the threat of losing the support of Carlos Ivan Zuniga, their influential pro-Communist legal adviser, the strikers have agreed to stay in the capital. Zuniga and others hope to use them as the focal point for a renewed general strike on 19 April.

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